

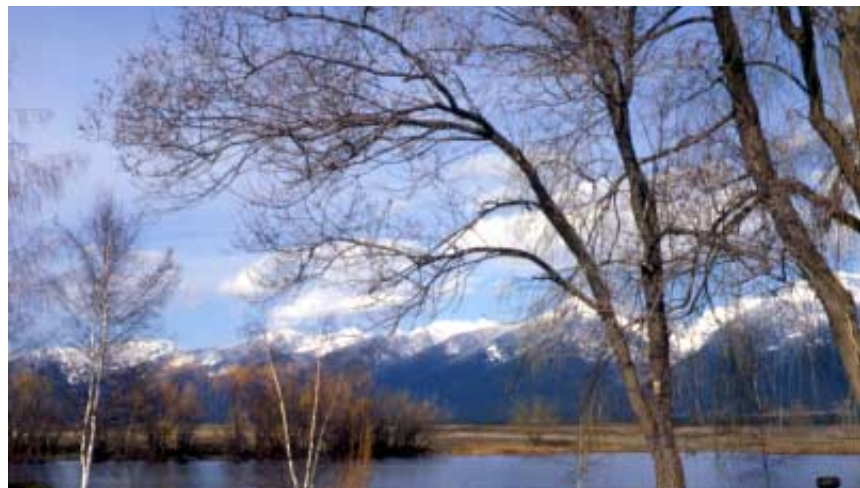
## Interpretive signs

Interpretive signs are intended to convey information about natural resources, cultural resources, historic events, and other related activities.

- Locate interpretive signs where there is a desire to convey information to visitors about natural resources, cultural resources, historic events, and other activities. Write interpretive signs in Salish, Kootenai, and English. Incorporated interpretive signs with pull-off and turnout areas along the road since most require a visitor to stop and read the text/graphics on the sign. Locations for interpretive signs are: Flathead Reservation entrance near Evaro, Ravalli Hill site, and Polson Hill site.
- Explore utilizing CSKT radio as a means to convey information about natural resources, cultural resources, historic events, and other related activities.
- Incorporate a logo illustrating the Coyote theme into interpretive signage as appropriate.
- Information to be included on signs located at the Ravalli Hill will be developed in consultation with the Tribal Preservation Officer.
- Information to be included on signs located at the Polson Hill Interpretive Overlook will be developed in consultation with the CSKT Natural Resource Department.



*Interpretive signs can convey information about a specific area, such as Ninepipe, to travelers.*



## Visitor Centers & Interpretive Overlooks

The primary objective of visitor centers and interpretive overlooks is to provide opportunities for travelers to find out more about the Flathead Indian Reservation, the Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oriennes people, and/or unique natural or cultural sites. The visitor centers and interpretive overlooks also provide an opportunity for travelers to rest and relax before continuing on their way.



*An example of a visitor center turnout that is clearly marked and signed, and separated from the road with a bermed island featuring indigenous plant material.*

### Vehicle access, parking and circulation

All visitor centers and interpretive overlooks are intended to be accessed from US 93. As a result, adequate access, parking, and internal circulation is required for each site.

- Obliterate all informal, dirt turnouts that are not converted to formal turnouts. Construct mounds and berms as necessary to discourage use of these areas.
- Make turnouts where visitors are encouraged to get out of their vehicles wide enough for parking large recreational vehicles. Pave these turnouts and make sure they are clearly marked and signed.
- Incorporate signage, curbs, sidewalks where appropriate, and a trash receptacle for all interpretive/scenic turnouts.
- Use islands to separate turnouts from the road where there is adequate space to do so. Create a berm for the islands and vegetate with indigenous plant material.
- Remove turnouts that function as impromptu turnouts for slow moving traffic.
- At visitor centers, locate parking areas so they do not intrude upon major views and viewing areas. Parked automobiles should not dominate the view upon entering a site, nor should they detract from important views from within a building. Avoid constructing large, open parking areas that are visually obtrusive. Layout should conform to existing topography, trees, rock outcrops, and other site features. Define edges and confine pedestrian access to walkways to prevent damage to the surrounding landscape. Linear, unobstructed paths for snow removal equipment with storage areas for snow should be provided when possible. Parking areas should be designed to fit the land so that cuts and fills are minimized.
- Design ramps, railings, steps, and walkways in such a way that they are an integral part of the landscape and building.
- In parking areas, locate lighting fixtures at the entrance to the parking area. Use shielded walk lights adequate for guidance and direction to light the pedestrian path from the parking lot to the destination. Use light fixtures that are complementary to the large scale design elements of the structures and other site fixtures.
- Include a logo illustrating the Coyote theme at all visitor centers and interpretive overlooks.
- Use indigenous plant material to reinforce views, outdoor spaces, circulation, and entries, and to provide shade, shelter, and to serve as a screen/buffer for wind, sun, and views.
- Incorporate work of designated tribal artists at all visitor centers and interpretive overlooks. Appropriate artist and work will be determined by CSKT.



### Building architecture

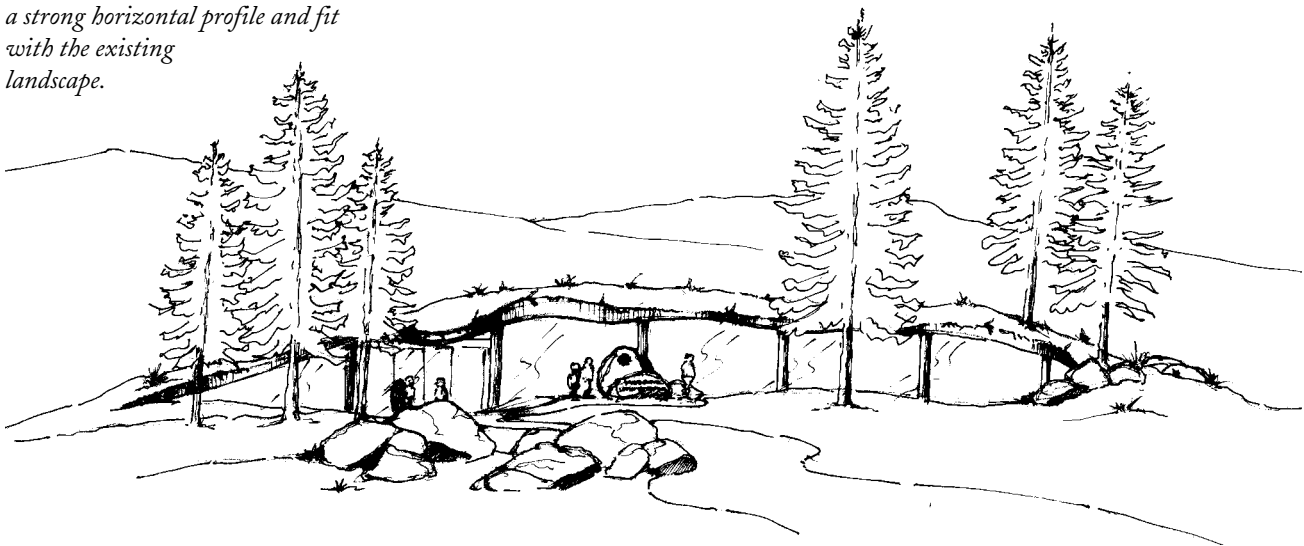
Guidelines for the building architecture are intended to help define the visual and physical character of all structures associated with visitor center and interpretive overlook sites.



*Use native materials consisting primarily of stone and wood for structures.*

- Place buildings in such a way as to minimize alteration of terrain or intrusion into the natural character of a site. Make buildings subordinate to nature. In a forest setting, site buildings between trees and accent spaces in the landscape.
- Use a simple and consistent palette of colors for architecture structures.
- Construct building complexes so the natural landscape continues through and is reflected in the final design.
- Create outdoor spaces to provide the transition between the activity within the building and the exterior natural environment. These outdoor spaces could be used for eating, sitting, relaxing, or waiting for others.
- Design windows and doorways to bring views, natural light, sounds, smell, and air into interior spaces.
- Design buildings to have a horizontal emphasis. Shadowed roof overhangs, horizontally patterned wall elements, and rustic lower walls following the natural grade all help achieve this goal. Use vertical elements such as masonry chimneys, structural frames, and major wall openings as secondary elements to lend visual counterpoint.
- Incorporate signage for structures as part of the facade. Construct these signs of wood, copper, bronze, stone, or other acceptable material; make sure these signs are in scale with the adjacent elements of the building and appropriate to its location.
- Limit structures to one- or two-stories in height.
- Construct facades out of materials that weather naturally. Rather than having a painted or finished exterior indifferent to the elements, weathering materials respond visibly to the effects of sun, rain, wind, and snow. Clear or semitransparent stains are preferable to opaque stains. Confine painted surfaces to trim and casings at building openings and protected locations such as galleries, porches and roof soffits.
- Use a strong, simple roof of appropriate scale and rustic materials that help give the structure a strong character and define the building entrance. Use natural roofing materials that weather where appropriate.

*Visitor center structures should have a strong horizontal profile and fit with the existing landscape.*



- Design architecture to emphasize simple massing and shapes. Use detail elements such as chimneys, roof framing exposed under soffits, beams and brackets, the form and profile of masonry elements size of columns and attendant connections, balcony railings, and stairs to provide visual interest.

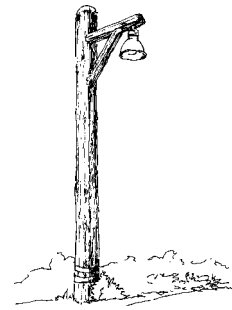


*Use massing of rock outcroppings to help identify building entrances.*

### Site landscaping, furniture, and lighting

Each visitor center and interpretive overlook is unique, but by using consistent site landscaping and furnishings, they will have a consistent character that helps travelers realize they are still on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

- Incorporate signage, curbs, sidewalks where appropriate; provide a trash receptacle for all interpretive / scenic turnouts.
- Concrete sidewalks should be colored to match the surrounding landscape.
- Incorporate stands of trees, rock outcrops, and other features into the arrival sequence and entrance into a building.
- Include site furniture such as benches, trash receptacles, bollards, gates, and construct them of natural materials that are compatible with both architecture and the site.



*Landmarks, such as this Ponderosa pine, should be protected and incorporated as part of the final design.*